

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 303

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Byars, you're recognized to open on AM1365 to LB 303.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Thank you, members of the body. Trying to find where I am, please forgive me.

CLERK: Senator, page 17, lines 11 through 15; strike lines 11 through 15 on page 17

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I appreciate that. I don't think it's any surprise to anyone in the body that I am opposed to this piece of legislation. I have long been an advocate of public health, long been an advocate of safety as far as public policy is concerned that not only protects the lives of the citizens of this state, but in good public policy and as we look at good public health, look at prevention. I can't see in any way, in LB 303, that we're doing anything but taking gigantic steps backwards. The amendment that I have filed along with several other amendments that will be coming up later, and I'm sure among other amendments to be filed by other senators, are very serious amendments. If this bill is to pass, is to move forward, I think there needs to be some tremendous changes. I don't see this as the type of bill that's been portrayed by its sponsors and by its advocates as being one of a safety bill, an education bill, of one that protects younger motorcycle operators, but I see it as one that basically destroys all of those things that have been in statute before. I was not, probably for whatever reasons, most of them bad, not being as aware of some of the things that were in this bill when we debated it on General File. Part of what I wasn't aware of and Senator Smith, the sponsor of this bill, has told me this was debated at length. And I'm usually on the floor, I don't know why I missed it. But part of it was the fact that the new language in this bill, which is on page 17, lines 11 through 15, makes it a secondary offense if you don't have a helmet on. We're right back having nothing. You have no bill. You can go out and have your safety education course and you're 16-years old and you otherwise qualify, and you know according to law because you're young and impulsive that I don't have to wear that helmet because they are going to have to stop me for something else before they can ticket me. You throw the helmet